

## NEW INTRODUCTIONS

### ®Starkrimson Cherry (Zaiger 1G-200)

### Introduced by Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Co.

JERRY FRECON

®Starkrimson cherry, a dwarf self-fertile sweet cherry, was recently introduced by Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Co., Louisiana, Missouri. It was selected because of its compact growth and heavy fruiting relative to self-fertility. The fruit is high quality, firm fleshed and reaches optimum ripeness when it accumulates a full crimson red skin color.

#### ORIGIN

Starkrimson cherry originated as a cross resulting from an open pollinated seedling of Stella x Garden Bing. The cross was made by Floyd

Zaiger at his breeding grounds in Modesto, California.

Second generation trees are under test in Hughson, California, in Louisiana, Missouri, and at various locations in Europe. Starkrimson has been tested extensively in Modesto, California.

#### FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS

The fruit size is equivalent to Stella—about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. The fruit shape is cordate. The skin is dark red at maturity. An unusual characteristic of Starkrimson is its high sugar content early before it reaches color



maturity. Starkrimson has high sugar in Modesto, California, on April 20 where skin color was a blushed red. Eighteen days later sugar was very high when skin color was deep red. The skin texture is moderately tender. The red flesh is firm with a light red to red juice.

The flavor is sweet and slightly sub-acid at full maturity.

### TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Starkrimson blooms with the Bing variety in Modesto. It sets well with its own pollen and is considered self-fruitful. The chilling requirement is about 1,000 hours. The tree is compact and spreading. It is vigorous but at maturity appears to be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of a standard Bing or Stella tree. Considering it is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  size tree

dwarf, Starkrimson would fit the classification of a natural dwarf tree. Starkrimson is precocious and heavy bearing. Heavy cropping in dry years may influence its fruit size.

Starkrimson in the nursery is compatible on Mahaleb and Mazzard seedlings. It is also compatible on Mahaleb in test orchard plantings.

Starkrimson cherry shows no unusual susceptibilities to disease and insects.

Exclusive rights for propagation, sales, and distribution is licensed in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards Co. A United States Plant Patent has been filed.

Trees will be available for sales to both home gardeners and commercial growers in the spring of 1980.

## Zaiger Receives Research Award

BETTY WYNNE

Pride and enthusiasm struck a high level when C. Floyd Zaiger received the California Association of Nurserymen's Research Award, September 25, 1979, at the 69th Annual California Association of Nurserymen's Convention held at the Newport Inn at Newport Beach.

In accepting the bronze plaque, Zaiger was modest about his work, and gave praise to his family for their patience and devotion to duty. Since 1956 when he quit his job as an agricultural instructor at Modesto High School, Zaiger and his family worked in his nursery and plant hybridizing program. Zaiger also expressed appreciation to John Wynne for the test blocks at the Dave Wilson Nursery for additional field tests to those many acres of test trees at the Zaiger nursery.

When asked about his hybridizing program, Zaiger said, "to succeed all

you need is a devoted, industrious family, produce and evaluate from forty to fifty thousand controlled crosses a year, and then if you are lucky, every few years you may come up with a winner."

Zaiger has indeed produced winners—some are interspecific crosses aimed at producing improved rootstocks that can be used for a wide variety of fruits. He has actually created new kinds of fruits through interspecific crossing—a nectarine-plum cross, a cherry-plum named Sprite, and a plum-apricot, named Plum Parfait, and is working on a peach-apricot. Zaiger also has dwarf peaches and nectarines and a dozen dwarf apples ripening at different times in addition to his dwarf Garden Delicious. Zaiger has developed a dwarf plum, a large fruiting dwarf apricot with low chilling requirements to be released next year and is work-